KONGA'S REVENGE

12¢

FALL

CDC

KONGA'S REVENGE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

WHAT IS IT? SOMEONE STOP THAT THING!

DON'T HURT HIM! KONGA IS COMING TO *ME!*

KONGA'S MOST EXCITING ADVENTURE! DON'T MISS...

"the TROJAN QUEEN"

Dick Giordano

THE TROJAN QUEEN

THE FAIR BEAUTY OF ANDREA BARR HAS BEGUILED KONGA, THE HUGE PRIMATE WHO HAD BEEN DOOMED BY HIS SIZE TO ROAM THE WORLD, LONELY AND UNLOVED, FEARED BY ALL BUT A FEW OF THE SPECIES MAN! THE GREAT HEART OF KONGA YEARNED FOR AFFECTION...HE HAD KNOWN A GIRL FAIR OF HAIR AND SOFT-VOICED AND ANDREA BARR REMINDED HIM OF THAT LOVELY BEAUTY! IN STRANGE PLACES, IN STRANGE WAYS, HE HAD WATCHED THAT FACE, HEARD THAT VOICE...AND **NOW**! SHE WAS REAL, SHE WAS NEAR, HE HAD ONLY TO SMASH ASIDE A FEW PUNY OBSTACLES TO BE AT HER SIDE!

THIS ISN'T IN THE SCRIPT! SOMEONE STOP THAT THING!
RROOAAARR
DON'T KILL HIM! KONGA IS COMING TO ME...HE WON'T HURT ANYONE!
KEEP THOSE CAMERAS ROLLING! THIS IS THE BEST FILM OF ALL TIME!
KRAASH!
MONTES + MASTROSERIO

KONGA'S REVENGE

LONG BEFORE THE MOVIE MOGULS OF HOLLYWOOD HAD BUILT THAT COLOSSAL MODEL OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF TROY, KONGA HAD KNOWN OF THE FAMOUS ACTRESS, ANDREA BARR/ AT A DRIVE-IN MOVIE OUTSIDE A CITY IN CANADA SITUATED NEAR THE TRACKLESS FOREST...ANDREA BARR PORTRAYED A SWEET YOUNG GIRL...

DON'T YOU THINK I'M PRETTIER THAN ANDREA BARR, JOHNNY?

THE DEEP RUMBLE THEY HEARD COULD'VE BEEN THUNDER/ IN FACT, THE GIRL WITH JOHNNY TURNED AND LOOKED AT THE SKY BEHIND THEM... AND WAS ASTONISHED TO SEE BLACKNESS, NO STARS OR MOON...

RRUMBLE RRUMBLE

WAS THAT THUNDER? JOHNNY, THE SKY'S SO BLACK...NOT A STAR OUT/ I HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN/

IT WASN'T CLOUDS THAT BLACKENED THE SKY...IT WAS THE BIGGEST CREATURE THAT EVER ROAMED THE WORLD, KONGA/ AND HE TOO WAS WATCHING THAT MELODRAMA STARRING ANDREA BARR...WHOM HE THOUGHT WAS THE FAIREST CREATURE THAT EVER LIVED/

THAT'S A FUNNY LOOKING CLOUD, JOHNNY/ JOHNNY, STOP TRYING TO KISS ME AND LOOK AT THAT.....EEEEEEEIIIIIII/

I SAW IT TOO, LULU-MAY-ELLEN/ IT... IT...M-M-MOVED/

YES, IT MOVED...KONGA GRUNTED IN ANNOYANCE AT ALL THE CHATTER AND LEANED FORWARD TO SEE MORE CLEARLY! A WOMAN SCREAMED, A HOT-RODDER PRODDED HIS MILL INTO A SCREAMING BELLOW AND HE CRASHED AND RICOCHETED IN THE APPROXIMATE DIRECTION OF THE "EXIT" SIGN! CHAOS REIGNED!

GRRROOOWWR

GRK

LEMME OUTTA HERE! THAT THING'S A MONKEY!

EXIT

HOME, JAMES!

WILLIE, THIS IS NO TIME FOR SAFE AND SANE DRIVING! STEP ON IT!

VROOM

CRASH

VROOMM!

SCREECH!

THEN, IT WAS SILENT...EXCEPT FOR THE STILL-RUNNING PROJECTOR...AND THE DULCET TONES OF ANDREA BARR!

KISS ME, YOU FOOL!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

KONGA HAD COMPANIONSHIP FOR A LITTLE WHILE! THE FILM RAN ON EVEN THROUGH THE PROJECTIONIST HAD FLED AND ALL THE VIEWERS HAD FLED WITH HIM! ANDREA BARR, THOUGH, STAYED RIGHT UNTIL THE HAPPY ENDING!

GRRRR

OHHH...LEOPOLD! I LOVE YOU!

GRRRR

KRRAASH

THEY'RE SENDING TROOPS! TANKS AND JET AIR-CRAFT! THE NAME OF THAT CRITTER IS KONGA, THEY SAID!

THE HUNT WAS ON! KONGA WANTED TO LINGER IN THE AREA WHERE HE HAD DISCOVERED HIS LOVELY ANDREA...BUT AS USUAL MAN GOT STUFFY ABOUT HAVING HIM HANG AROUND!

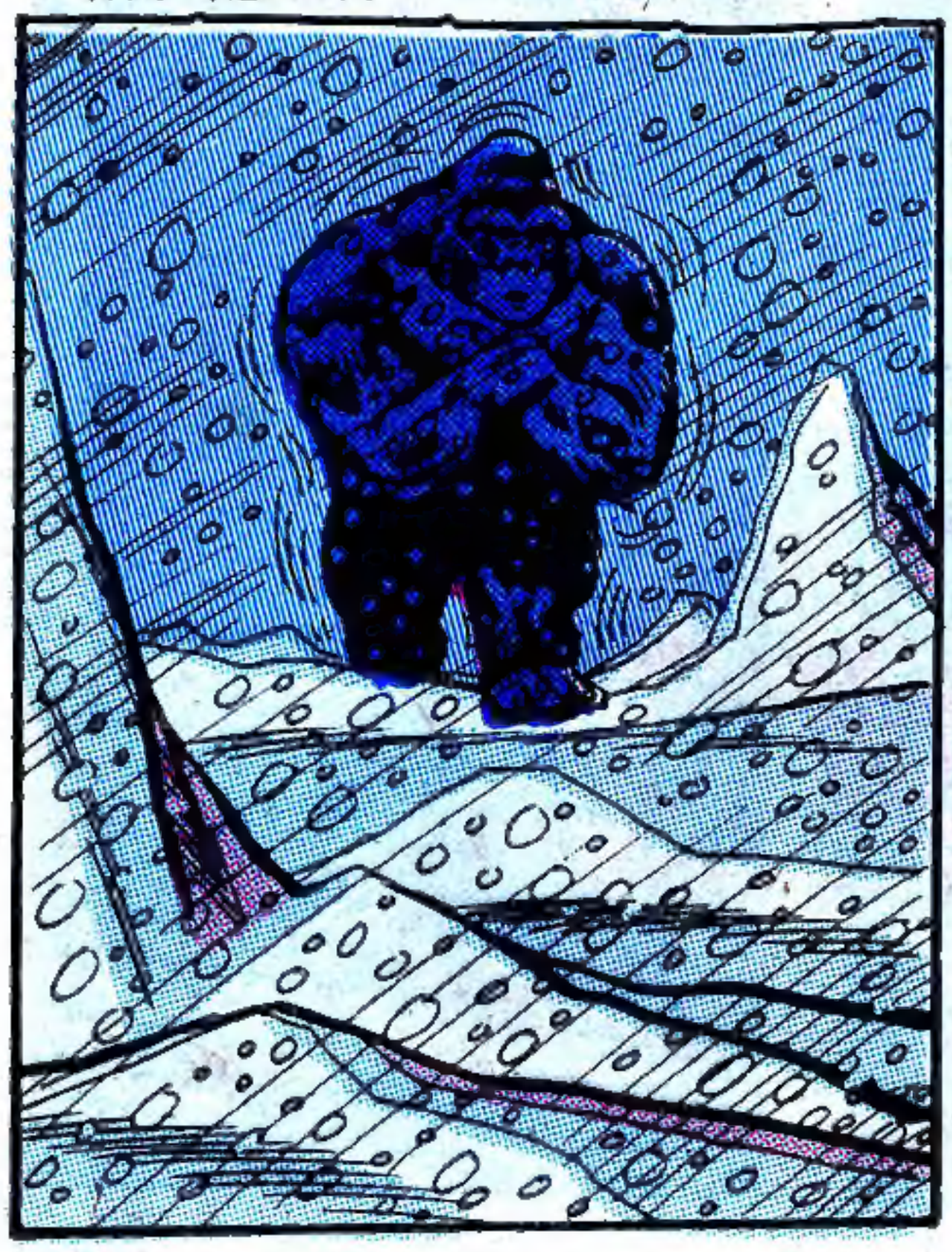
WHITEWAY FROM TRIGGER CHARLIE, I'VE GOT THE BLIGHTER IN MY SIGHTS!

GGGRRR

WHOOOOOOPPSSS! HE ALMOST GOT ME JUST THEN!

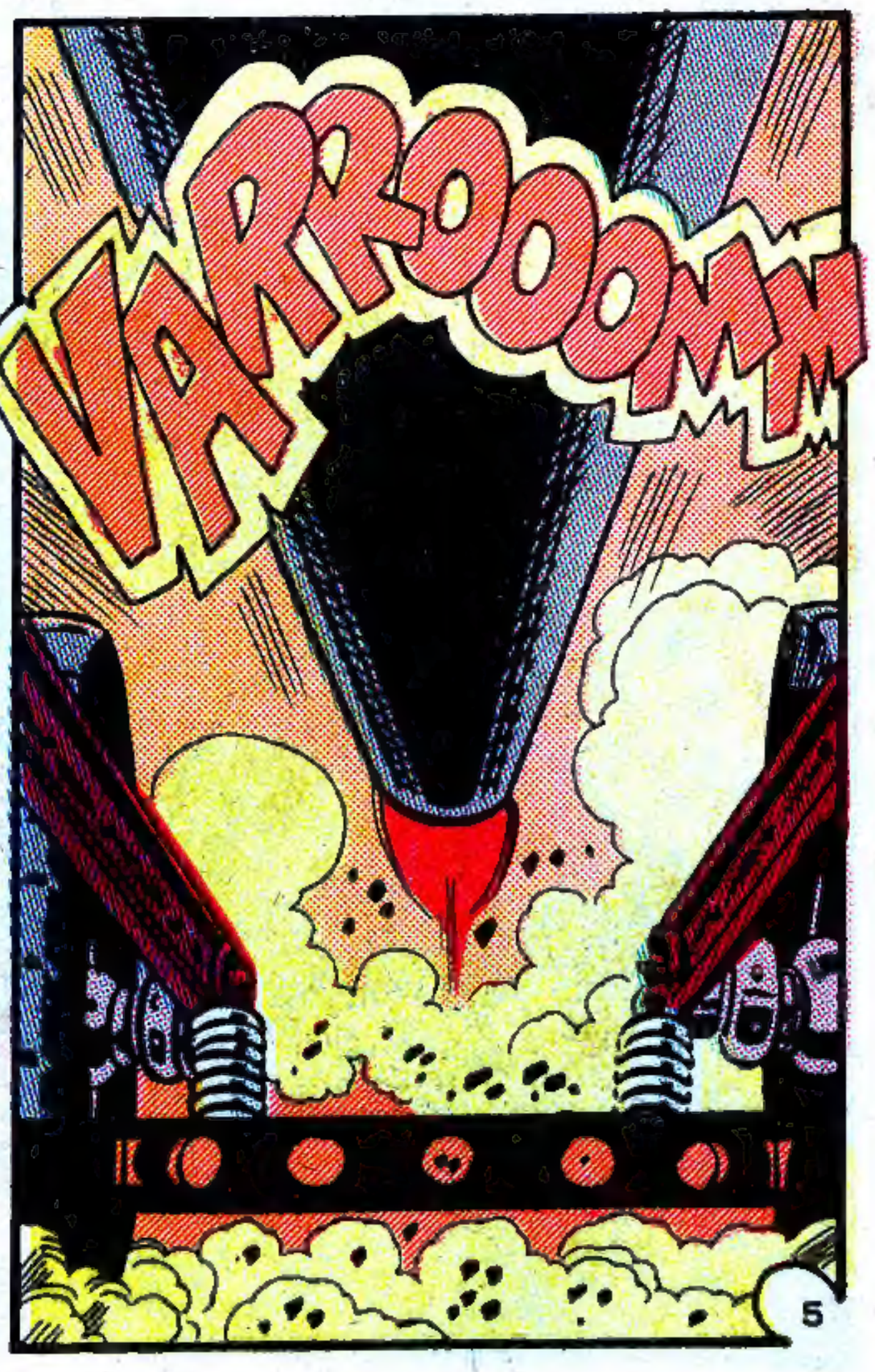
KONGA'S REVENGE

IT WAS THE OLD STORY/ BECAUSE OF HIS SIZE AND THE FEAR OF MEN, THEY WERE HOSTILE TOWARDS HIM/ THEY USED THEIR AIRCRAFT AND WEAPONS AND THEY HARASSED HIM, DRIVING HIM INTO THE REMOTE PLACES OF THE WORLD/ HE WAS MORE LONELY THAN EVER AND THERE WAS BITTERNESS IN HIS HEART/



THE ARTIC WAS NO PLACE FOR A TROPICS-BORN CREATURE SUCH AS KONGA/ HE TRAVERSED CANADA, WENT ON OVER INTO SIBERIA, ENDURED WHAT THE COMMUNISTS HEAPED ON HIM...

THE COMMUNISTS' NEWEST WEAPON...MODELED AFTER THE AMERICAN-MADE NUCLEAR-SHELL PROPELLING ARTILLERY PIECE/ THIS WAS TREMENDOUS...



IT WAS BAD ENOUGH SLEEPING IN THE COLD, WET SNOW...HE HADN'T EATEN A DECENT MEAL IN WEEKS AND NOW AN ATOMIC SHELL LANDED NEAR HIS EAR! IT HURT LIKE BLAZES!

KROOM!!

BK

ROOOOAARRP

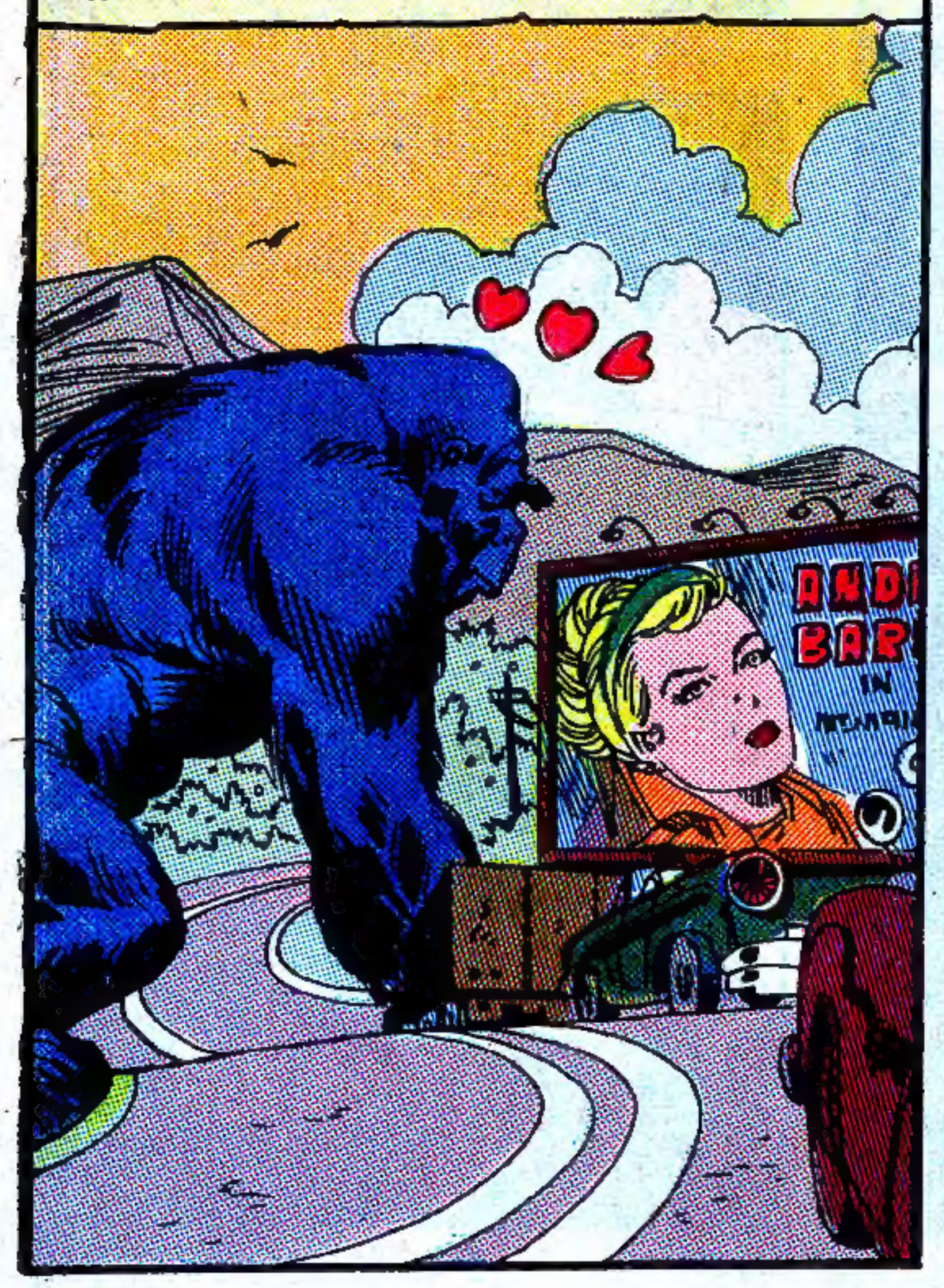
DON'T RUN, YOU COWARDS! WAIT FOR ME!

HE IS PROCEEDING IN A SOUTH-EASTERLY DIRECTION! HE'LL PASS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY IF HE MAINTAINS THIS COURSE! CROSSING INTO TURKEY IN ANOTHER DAY OR SO...

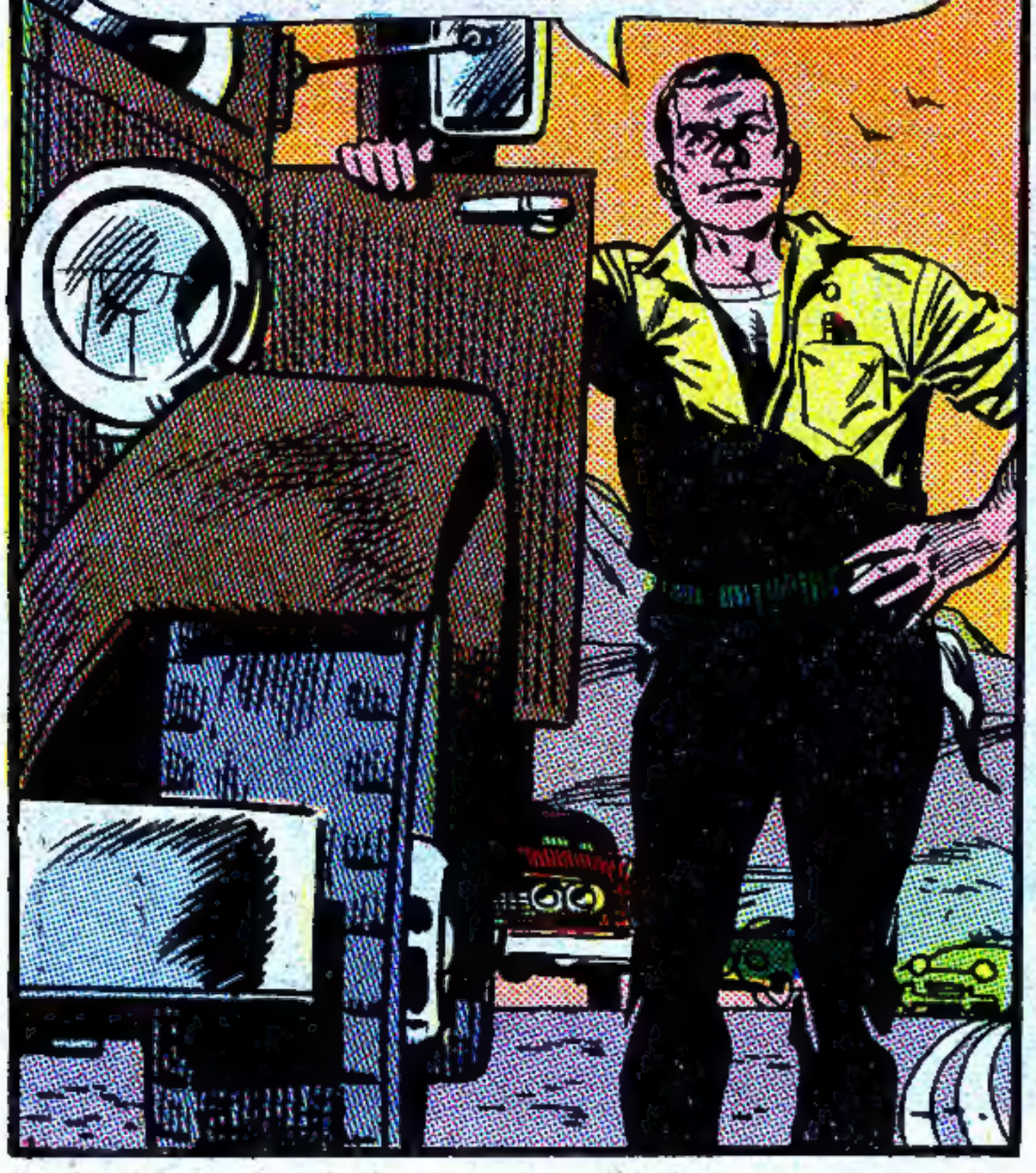
HE VANISHED INTO THE DESERTS OF SOUTHWESTERN ASIA THEN...INTO BLINDING SANDSTORMS...TORMENTING, SHRIEKING WINDS...BUT AWAY FROM THE HOSTILE HANDS OF MANKIND!

KONGA'S REVENGE

THERE WERE HIGHWAYS...WITH BILL-BOARDS...AND ONE OF THESE HUGE ROADSIDE ADS HAD A PICTURE OF ANDREA BARR!



SHE'S MAKIN' THAT BIG MOVIE OVER ALONG THE BLACK SEA COAST...THEY BUILT A WHOLE CITY JUST TO SHOOT THIS MOVIE...SHE'S PLAYIN' THE PART OF HELEN OF TROY! MUST BE USIN' TEN THOUSAND EXTRAS FOR THE BIG BATTLE SCENES, I HEAR!



AS IF HE'D HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD, KONGA GOT TO HIS FEET AND HEADED STRAIGHT WEST NOW..TOWARD THE RE-CREATED CITY OF ANCIENT TROY... THE ILIUM OF THE ILIAD...WHERE HELEN OF TROY HAD CAUSED ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS WARS OF LEGEND AND HISTORY!

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

DARLING ANDREA, YOU MUST BE MORE CONVINCING THAT YOU LOVE PARIS IN THE CLOSE-UPS! REMEMBER, PARIS IS THE SON OF KING PRIAM AND GREECE IS FIGHTING TROY OVER YOU! AT LEAST LOOK AS THOUGH YOU...

THEN TELL TROY NOT TO EAT SO MUCH GARLIC AND ONIONS AT LUNCH! HE'S ABOUT AS ROMANTIC AS A PIZZA PIE!

ANTON, I'M TIRED OF THESE HANDSOME NOTHINGS WHO YOU ALWAYS GET FOR MY LEADING MEN!

I AM NOT A FOOL, LITTLE ONE! THIS WAY, I WILL NOT LOSE YOU...AFTER THE PRETTY FACES AND EMPTY HEARTS OF THESE ACTORS...YOU ALWAYS COME BACK TO ME! TONIGHT, WE HAVE DINNER.. THERE WILL BE A MOON...

SO, THAT EVENING...

ANTON, HOW LONG MUST WE HIDE OUR LOVE?

MR. TIANO, THE MAJOR STOCKHOLDER, HAS WARNED ME NOT TO LET YOU BECOME ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH ANYONE, ANDREA! IT WOULD RUIN YOUR ENORMOUS BOX-OFFICE APPEAL!

...AND YOU AND I WILL WALK BENEATH THIS MOON.. JUST AS PARIS, PRINCE OF TROY, WALKED WITH HELEN, HIS QUEEN!

KONGA'S REVENGE

IS HE THIS IMPORTANT TO US, MY DEAREST? ARE OUR CAREERS....!?

OF COURSE NOT, ANDREA! BUT WE MUST FINISH THE EPIC...AND WITH THINGS GOING WRONG SO OFTEN, IT SEEMS AT TIMES AS THOUGH WE MAY NEVER BE THROUGH!

MY ASSISTANT, RAJAH BLAIR, IS IN CHARGE OF RECRUITING EXTRAS FOR THE BATTLE SCENES! I'M SURE HE'S GETTING KICK-BACKS FROM THESE POOR FELLOWS! AND HE'S UP TO SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES....

HE PROPOSED TO ME ONCE, ANTON...YEARS AGO..AND I DON'T THINK HE EVER GOT OVER BEING REJECTED! HE HATES YOU BECAUSE OF ME!

SOMETHING ELSE, DARLING.. HE WANTED THIS JOB... HE HOPED TO BE PICKED TO DIRECT THE TROJAN QUEEN INSTEAD OF ME!

I'M SURE HE'S HIRING GREEKS AND SYRIANS FOR THE GREEK ARMIES..AND TURKS FOR THE TROJAN GROUP! THEY HATE EACH OTHER...AND OUR CASUALTY RATE IS ALMOST AS HIGH AS THE ORIGINAL TROJAN WAR WAS!

HE HATES YOU....

THEN, HATREDS AND FEUDS WERE FORGOTTEN AS ANDREA BARR WAS SOUNDLY KISSED BY THE MAN SHE LOVED, ANTON JORZAK! AND KONGA WITNESSED IT!

GRRRR

WHAT WAS THAT?

I HEARD IT TOO, DARLING! COULDN'T'VE BEEN THUNDER...NOT ON A CLEAR NIGHT! COME ON, WE'D BEST GET BACK TO CAMP!

ANTON JORZAK AND ANDREA BARR HURRIED BACK TO THE LITTLE CITY THEY HAD SET UP NEAR THE GREATER CITY OF STONE AND PAPIER MACHE, THE REPLICA OF THE ANCIENT GREAT CITY OF TROY!

I'LL ASK THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO CHECK THE AREA, ANDREA! WHATEVER MADE THAT SOUND WILL BE LOCATED!

IT HAPPENED WHEN I KISSED YOU...I HOPE IT DOESN'T ALWAYS OCCUR!

THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

GRRRRRR!

OH, DEAR...IT DID HAPPEN, DIDN'T IT?

GET INSIDE, ANDREA! THIS MAY NOT BE AS HUMOROUS AS YOU THINK!

KONGA'S REVENGE

RAJAH BLAIR! CALL OUT SOME OF THE CREW...WE'VE GOT TO INSTITUTE A SEARCH OF THE AREA! THERE SEEMS TO BE A WILD BEAST NEAR THE CAMP!

OR IN THE CAMP, JORZAK! IS THIS A GAG? ARE YOU ESTABLISHING AN ALIBI FOR THE FAILURE YOU'LL UNDOUBTEDLY BECOME AFTER YOU BUNGLE THIS MOVIE?

RAJAH BLAIR, ONCE A TOP-FLIGHT GENIUS AT DIRECTING, BITTERLY DIRECTED THE SEARCH OF THE AREA! WHILE HE AND EVERY AVAILABLE MAN PROWLED THE BRUSH AND GULLIES NEAR THE CAMP...

NOTHING NEAR THE CAMP... WHAT LOOKED LIKE TRACKS WERE SO DARNED BIG THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MADE BY A LIVE ANIMAL! LET'S GO BACK!

BUT WOULD THEY BE IN TIME? JUST AS THEY TURNED TO RETURN TO CAMP, ANDREA BARR FELT THE TRAILER LIFTED...

WHAT'S THAT THING? IT'S MOVING... IT...IT'S A MONSTER! PICKING UP ANDREA BARR'S TRAILER!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

KONGA'S REVENGE

SUDDENLY MEN WERE SCREAMING, GUNS WERE FIRING, HUGE KLEIG-LIGHT FLOODLIGHTS CAME ON! THE CAMP ERUPTED...IT WAS BEDLAM! AND KONGA BLINKED IN THE BLINDING BEAMS...

BLAM BLAM POW BAM

KEEP FIRING AT HIM! IF HE KILLS ANDREA...

KEEP FIRING! YOU CAMERAMEN, IF YOU AREN'T PHOTOGRAPHING EVERY SECOND OF THIS, YOU'RE ALL FIRED!

BAM

THE POOR THING! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

BAM

BAM

STOP! ALL OF YOU STOP TORMENTING THAT POOR CREATURE! HE COULD SQUASH US ALL, WIPE OUT ALL MANKIND, IF HE HAD ANY MEANNESS IN HIM!

KING

KING

YOUR NAME IS KONGA, I THINK! I'VE HEARD OF YOU, KONGA...AND I NEVER HEARD THAT YOU DELIBERATELY TOOK THE LIVES OF MEN! YOU WILL GO AWAY WITHOUT HURTING ANYONE, WON'T YOU, KONGA?

GENTLY KONGA TOOK HER IN HIS HUGE HAND AND INCREDIBLY, THE GREAT CREATURE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND HER SOFT WORDS! A SOUND RUMBLED DEEP IN HIS CHEST...HE ALMOST SMILED!

YOU'RE A DEAR, KONGA! I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU ONE BIT ANY MORE!

KONGA GENTLY LOWERED ANDREA AND ANTON JORZAK, A BRAVE MAN, RUSHED TO HER SIDE! HE LOVED THIS WOMAN AND HE'D GIVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE HER IF HE HAD TO...WHICH HE ALMOST DID RIGHT THEN!

RUN, ANDREA... I'LL SHIELD YOU!

HE WON'T HURT ME, ANTON...BUT I THINK HE MIGHT MANGLE YOU SLIGHTLY IF YOU DON'T STOP BEING SUCH A HEROIC IDIOT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? AND DON'T EVER CALL ME AN IDIOT!

I LOVE YOU, YOU SWEET IDIOT! AND I THINK KONGA KNOWS THIS...

...AND HE'S JEALOUS BECAUSE HE MIGHT LOVE ME JUST A LITTLE TOO! OH, ANTON, ISN'T IT ALL PERFECTLY THRILL-ING?

ON IMPULSE, THE BEAUTIFUL ACTRESS RAN TO A GREAT CAMERA DOLLY...REALLY A GIANT CRANE! AT A SIGNAL FROM HER, THE OPERATOR RAISED HER HIGHER...HIGHER STILL...AND EVEN HIGHER! AND KONGA WAS NOT SO REMOTE NOW, SHE GLIMPSED THE IM-MENSITY OF HIM, THE THICK CHEST, THE GREAT TEETH... THE ADORING EYES...AND SHE HEARD THE SOFT SOUNDS OF LOVE COMING FROM HIM!

ISN'T HE ADORABLE?

JUST THE THING FOR BOOK-ENDS...IF WE CAN FIND ANOTHER LIKE HIM!

YOU POOR DARLING! YOU'RE JUST LONESOME, AREN'T YOU? YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS!

KONGA'S REVENGE

THEY CAUGHT THAT ON FILM...AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM IT WAS THE MOST TOUCHING LOVE-SCENE ANDREA BARR EVER PLAYED!

IF YOU MISS A SPLIT-SECOND OF THIS, I'LL CLOBBER YOU WITH YOUR OWN CAMERA! GET IT ALL...IT'S GREAT!

THEN, AT A SIGNAL FROM ANDREA, THE CRANE GENTLY LOWERED ANDREA BARR! SHE BLEW KONGA SOFT KISSES...AND HOSITIVELY GURGLED AT HER!

GOOD NIGHT, KONGA...DON'T STEP ON ANY TRAILERS OR CARS WHEN YOU'RE LEAVING, HEAR?

HE'S GOT TO BE WRIT-TEN INTO THE SCRIPT! WE'VE GOT A SMASH HIT IF WE CAN GET KONGA INTO OUR EPIC!

MOST OF MY LEADING MEN HAD TO EMOTE STANDING ON SOAP BOXES TO MAKE THEM LOOK TALL! THIS ONE WILL BE A PLEASANT CHANGE!

THE WRITERS GOT THE WORD AND THEY LABORED WHILE LESS TALENTED MEN SLEPT AS USUAL...

LOOK! HOW'S THIS! KONGA IS SENT BY THE GODS TO HELP THE GREEKS CONQUER THE TROJANS BUT AFTER HE SEES HELEN OF TROY, HE DECIDES TO FIGHT AGAINST THE GREEKS INSTEAD!

LOUSY...BUT IT'S GOTTA DO! CAMERAS START GRINDING IN 30 MINUTES!

ANTON JORZAK HAD HIS SHOOTING SCRIPT AT 0800 HOURS! NOW, HIS ONLY PROBLEM WAS SUMMONING KONGA AND GETTING HIM TO DO AS HE WAS TOLD!

READY, CAMERAS! ON SET, ANDREA! GET KONGA OVER HERE!

IT WASN'T THAT SIMPLE! KONGA, A NON-UNION MAN, HADN'T SIGNED ANY CONTRACTS... AND HE WAS SLEEPING IN THAT MORNING, DREAMING DREAMS...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S ROLL THE SEQUENCES WE HAVEN'T GOT KONGA IN!

SO THE EPIC "HELEN OF TROY" WENT ON BEING FILMED! ANDREA, PLAYING HER ROLE OF "THE TROJAN QUEEN" ACTED WITH HER USUAL BEAUTY AND SKILL...

AHH, ADORABLE HELEN, YOUR BEAUTY COULD RANSOM TROY, FREE THIS CITY OF THE GREEK SIEGE!

PARIS, ADORED ONE, I WOULD'ST NOT LEAVE THY SIDE! IF VICTORY BELONGS TO THE ARMIES OF GREECE, I WILL DIE WITH THEE...HAPPIER IN DEATH THAN I WOULD BE AWAY FROM MY OWN TRUE LOVE!

THEY'D CALLED KONGA, SEARCHED THE PLAINS WITH NO SUCCESS...BUT HER SOFT VOICE WHISPERING OF LOVE TO HER MOVIE SWEETHEART SEEMED TO BRIDGE THE MILES BETWEEN KONGA AND HIS BELOVED ANDREA BARR!

GRRRRRR

KONGA CAME ACROSS THE HILLS FAST AND MAD!

KEEP SHOOTING! WE'LL HOLD THE KONGA SCENES UNTIL LATER!

KONGA'S REVENGE

BUT KONGA WASN'T WAITING! HE WANTED TO SAY GOOD MORNING TO THE GIRL HE HAD COME TO LOVE...

DRIVER, BACK UP, I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT OVERGROWN MONKEY BEFORE HE RUINS EVERYTHING! MOVE IT!

?!

NOW WAIT A MINUTE!

YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE TO BE IN THIS MOVIE BUT NOT YET, YOU HEAR? YOU WAIT TILL THE SCRIPT CALLS FOR... YOU STOP, YOU HEAR ME?

BUT KONGA WASN'T LISTENING THAT DAY! HE KEPT GOING TOWARD THE BEAUTIFUL ANDREA BARR...NOT LETTING MEN, WALLS, OR MISSILES STOP HIM...OR EVEN SLOW HIM DOWN!

CRASH!!

GET IT! GET IT ALL!

YOU COWARDS! KONGA WON'T HURT ANYONE!

HE'S ONLY WRECKING THE CITY WE SPENT A YEAR BUILDING IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS FILM!

BOULDERS LAUNCHED BY THE GIANT CATAPAULTS FAILED TO STOP HIM...BUT THEY WOBBLED HIM A LITTLE!

KONK

KONK

GET ALL TO IT! ANDREA, SEE IF YOU CAN GET HIM TO PICK YOU UP! WILL YOU TRY IT?

WOULD YOU HURT ME, KONGA? COME...PICK ME UP!

DON'T BE AFRAID, KONGA... I'M NOT AS FRAGILE AS ALL THAT!

BUT KONGA WAS AFRAID! HE WHO HAD BRAVED JET FIGHTERS, NUCLEAR CANNON, ARTILLERY BARRAGES, ETC. WAS AFRAID OF ONE FRAGILE FEMALE!

HE'S CHICKEN! THAT BIG COWARD IS TOO CHICKEN TO PICK HER UP!

ALL RIGHT, KONGA...I UNDERSTAND!

DON'T BE CROSS WITH KONGA, ANTON! HE'S RIGHT...HE MIGHT VERY EASILY HURT ME! HE'S SO POWERFUL!..

WHAT AN ACTION SHOT THAT WOULD BE!

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THERE WERE HITCHES...BUT WITH ANDREA BARR TO TELL KONGA WHAT TO DO, THEY GOT PRECIOUS FOOTAGE STARRING KONGA AND ANDREA BARR IN ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE AND TOUCHING LOVE STORIES OF ALL TIME!

GO, KONGA...DO BATTLE WITH THE EVIL FORCES ATTACKING OUR FAIR CITY!

THE GREEKS CARRIED ON...TROJAN HERO HECTOR DID BATTLE WITH PATROCULS, THE FRIEND OF ACHILLES... WITH TOTAL DISREGARD FOR FACT, GREAT VATS OF BURNING OIL WERE POURED ON THE ATTACKING FORCES BY THE DEFENDERS OF TROY...

EEEAAAGHH

CUT! CUT!

THIS IS THE CLOSING SCENE, ANDREA! WE'VE GOT A TERRIFIC FILM... TOO BAD KONGA HAS BEEN STAYING AWAY LATELY!

THE VIOLENCE MAKES HIM NERVOUS, ANTON!

YOU MEAN...WE FRIGHTEN HIM?

KONGA DOESN'T LIKE YOU, ANTON...BECAUSE I DO! YOU KNOW THAT NASTY LITTLE RAJAH BLAIR, YOUR ASSISTANT? THE ONE WHO HATES YOU? I THINK KONGA LIKES HIM, HOWEVER...BECAUSE THEY SHARE A HATE!

RAJAH BLAIR HAD LEARNED TO HATE ANTON JORZAK MORE INTENSELY SINCE HE'D BEEN WORKING WITH HIM! NOW, CRAZED BY THE SUN AND HARD WORK RAJAH BLAIR TRIED TO ARRANGE AN "ACCIDENT"! A HOT OIL VAT WAS HIS WEAPON...

YOU CRAZY, BLAIR? LOOK OUT BELOW! WATCH IT, DOWN THERE!

KONGA'S REVENGE

BROODING ON A GREAT HILL NOT FAR AWAY, KONGA MEDITATED ON THE PERFIDY OF WOMEN...CONSUMED BY JEALOUSY, NOT REALLY UNDERSTANDING WHY HE FELT THIS STRANGE SICKNESS!

LOOK OUT BELOW! WATCH IT, MR. JORZAK! MISS BARR, JUMP FOR YOUR LIFE!

KONGA INCREDIBLY SEEMED TO HEAR THAT! HE WAS ON HIS FEET, A BLURRING BROWN STREAKING THUNDERBOLT!

THAT HOT OIL'S GONNA HIT MISS BARR!

EEE!!!

JUMP, ANDREA!

JUST AS THE HOT OIL SEEMED ABOUT TO SEAR AND BURN...A HUGE PAW SCOOPED UP TONS OF SAND AND ROCK...AND ANDREA BARR AND ANTON JORZAK WERE PART OF THE RUBBLE HE HEAVED OUT OF THE WAY OF THE FLAMING OIL!

WHOOOSH!

KONGA SAW THE FLAMING OIL...AT LAST HIS ANNOYANCE AT THIS VIOLENCE OR IMITATION OF VIOLANCE WAS VOICED! HIS BELLOW OF RAGE TUMBLED WALLS IMPERFECTLY ERECTED...AND THEN HE SMOTE THE ONES LEFT ERECT, RIGHT AND LEFT... AND THE SHAM ECHO OF GREAT GLORY WAS DESTROYED ONCE AND FOR ALL!

KRASH!

KRUNCH!

WHAT A TERRIFIC FINALE!

YOU CAN'T DO A RE-TAKE IF IT DOESN'T COME OUT RIGHT, DARLING!

THEN, HIS RAGE DISSIPATED, KONGA TURNED TO ANDREA BARR! HE SAW HER WITH ANTON JORZAK... BUT THE JEALOUSY TOO WAS GONE! PERHAPS HE SAW HAPPINESS AN AURA AROUND THEM!

LOOK, DARLING... HE'S WISHING US WELL! HE WANTS US TO BE HAPPY TOGETHER!

A-A-ASK HIM TO P-P-PUT US D-DOWN, WILL YOU, ANDREA?

I WISH I HAD HIM UNDER CONTRACT, ANDREA!

IT JUST WOULDN'T BE PRACTICAL, ANTON...

...IMAGINE, IF HE WON AN OSCAR, HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY GO UP ON STAGE AND ACCEPT HIS STATUETTE? NO, I THINK KONGA'S MOVIE CAREER BEGAN AND ENDED IN OUR LITTLE PRODUCTION! THIS WAS IT...THE END!

END

THE MISSING EARTHLINGS

I, Slyzob Garitus, a Martian of the Third Order, and director of the Scientific Research Center at Popinius, make this interim report to the State Council. After the final plans had been made for the invasion of the Planet Earth, it was decided that a scientist should go along with the expedition. So that a record may be made of the civilization we were determined to wipe out. This singular honor was bestowed upon me and I accompanied Space Fleet Damius-Commander in his flagship.

In terms of our time concepts we landed on Earth during the third cycle of the Showaji Period. Translate this into concepts of Earth Time we landed about the third month of their year, 1987. Needless to say we had expected resistance to be shown by these Earthlings. We had figured our own casulaties to be a maxium of twenty percent. Counting the wounded and the dead in one category. So you can imagine how surprised we were when our advanced scout space ships landed without any opposition whatsoever.

We had figured on taking the largest city in the United States, as they called their most powerful country, after a bitter fight. The leader of the scout planed flashed back a signal that there was no opposition. All of us landed and then began the greatest mystery of all: Not only was there no opposition but we were unable to find even a single Earthling! As though they had all vanished!

This disturbed Fleet Damius-Commander very much. It could be a sort of trap. We had all been taught that those Earthlings were capable of doing anything. Perhaps they had mined areas and were waiting for a chance to blow us all up to little bits. But careful examination by use of our Explosive-Dectector Units showed that the entire area was safe. Another possibility was that these Earthlings had all taken refuge in deep under ground caves. So using our Picto-Finders we sent out waves on the .345 band. And the results were just a blank. Which left us with but one possibility. And a terrible one at that.

Perhaps some unknown kind of a plague had swept over the entire Planet Earth. Wiped out all the inhabitants in such a way that nothing was left of them! You will see what terrible possibilities there are in such an idea. Just imagine if it were contagious? We too could be infected and on our return to our home Planet, spread the virus or whatever it was that could cause such a disaster. We have all been checked by our good and well trained specialists. We are physically in good condition. But it must be conceded that all of us are rather disturbed. For we do not know the answer to two questions: First, what happened to those Earthlings? Second, whatever it was that did happen to them, could it happen to us?

We think that we can at least pinpoint the exact time when this mysterious plague or whatever it was, swept over Earth. We went to some of the habitations where these Earthlings lived. Outside of their doors we found papers with writings on them. Since we know something of their tongue, we came to the following conclusion: These papere were newspapers delivered to the people to read. These newspapers have news items, pictures, stories, and editorials. In fact we have brought some of these newspapers back with us. The date on all of them was the same: March 7, 1987. Which means that they were delivered either on that date or very late on the previous day.

Using our wonderful brains we came to the conclusion that these newspapers had not been read at all by the people to whom they had been delivered. Inside the homes we found newspapers of the previous day. These had been read. In fact we found a mysterious notation on one of these newspapers written apparently by one of the readers: Looks like a good bargain. Must get it and call up Jane and tell her to meet me. Alas, we do not know what all of this means. Perhaps it was a code message warning about the possibility of an Invasion from outer space.

In one room we found on the floor what looked like small working models of space ships. With a variety of weapons that might be dangerous. These we have brought back with us for our experts to study. Again we found a mysterious note which read: If Bobby is a good boy and eats up everything for breakfast, I will get him that new toy. It is the word "toy" that baffles us. What is a toy? In fact who is Bobby? And if he eats things, why should he be given a toy? I am certain that my esteemed colleague, Ugius Chargola of the Scientific Research Center at Popinius will be able to decipher this great mystery and give us the proper answers.

Needless to say we brought back with us many items. One is a most peculiar kind of a machine. It had on top of it these very important words: For Coffee Break. But what is coffee? And just how do you break it? A group of us gathered around this machine. We found it in a building where apparently a lot of people worked. At present we have come to the temporary conclusion that these people were engaged in breaking coffee. One of our men noticed a button. He pushed it. And then it happened! We heard a peculiar noise and we saw an opening in the machine. A kind of a cup appeared with something in it.

All eyes were turned towards me. I knew I would be expected to see what was in the cup. So I put my second finger of my left hand into this cup. A sort of liquid appeared on my finger. I tasted it-and it was good. With the result that I drank the contents of that cup. Immediately I gave orders to post guards around this machine. It had the power to make something-and we must find out what that something is. You will see at once a very logical deduction: This machine makes a something that enables the people who drink it to break coffee.

One of our scout leaders came across a sign with but one word on it: Subway. So he and others descended many steps and came to a kind of a platform. They waited and waited for something to happen. But nothing did. We wonder just what it is that people came there to see. When we learn the meaning of that word-Subway - we shall of course have the answer to our problem. There were tunnels and perhaps at some later date we shall send a group of brave explorers into them to fathom the secret.

In the homes that we visited we found many pictures. Some of them were on the walls. Others were in frames on tables. You will have to be prepared for a shock when you see these pictures. For either these pictures represent present day Earthlings, that is, up to the period when they vanished, or they represent Earthlings of many years ago. Every face had the same basic features: Two eyes and one nose. Definitely an outmoded pattern. Similar to the wild creatures we found on Asteroid, Utas. Why couldn't they be the way we are? With one eye and two noses? I as a scientist do not wish to be considered biased. But an anthropological regression like this always affects me in a most unfavorable way.

In one home we found a most unusual machine. It is not easy to describe it. Let me say we brought three of these back with us. Definitely a person sits in front of this machine on a chair. It has white and black keys. You press down these keys in some kind of a mysterious combination. And out come noises. What terrible noises hit our ear drums. It is possible that this machine controls the spirits which in turn affect their weather conditions. On one of these machines we found a note which read as follows: Please see that Tommy practices the Moonlight Sonata.

Who is Tommy? What does he do to practice? And what is the Moonlight Sonata? I think we need an entirely different approach to finding out just what kind of a civilization these Earthlings had before they vanished. And I must admit that I feel a bit sad we didn't meet any of them. It would have been most interesting to see these creatures alive. Can you imagine how excited my own children would be were I to bring one of those Earthlings back with me? Perhaps in a way I am glad I didn't do this. Because then my children would be unable to concentrate on doing their homework. And this would be a terrible calamity for my family. The less we say about the punishment that children here get for not doing homework-the better. The record shows that since the Showa Period-not one Martian Child has failed to do homework!

Needless to say on our return trip home there was but one topic of conversation! What happened to the Earthlings? Perhaps some science fiction writer here will do a story about the situation. He may even come up with a good idea at that. Let me point out that our honored Jugo Gllogu wrote a story in which he said that someday we Martians would fly in space ships. How his generation of people laughed at him. But now we have statues in his honor. Well, what happened to the Earthlings?.

End

KONGA'S REVENGE

BIRTHDAY GIFT

PAUL METZEN HUNG BY A THREAD SUSPENDED HELPLESSLY THOUSANDS OF FEET IN THE AIR! AND WAITING TO CLAIM HIM WAS THE ICE MOUNTAIN OF DEATH!

ONE MORE HOUR IN THIS STORM, AND I'LL BE FROZEN TO DEATH!

PAUL METZEN WAS ALONE HIGH UP IN THE ALPS ON THE NORTH FACE OF THE MATTERHORN, DANGLING ON THE END OF A FRAYED ROPE! THE GREAT ADVENTURE WAS ALMOST FINISHED!

WIND VELOCITY WILL BREAK THAT ROPE IF THE ICE DOESN'T DO IT FIRST!

I WAS FOOLISH TO COME UP HERE! I'M THOUSANDS OF FEET ABOVE ANY HELP! AND MY HANDS ARE TOO NUMB TO CLIMB HIGHER!

A-3782

IT HAD STARTED MANY WEEKS AGO WHEN THE YOUNG MOUNTAINEER AND HIS FRIENDS FIRST MADE THEIR PLANS...

ERICH AND I WILL GO WITH YOU!

ITS' SETTLED THEN! WE'LL CLIMB THE NORTH FACE OF THE MATTER-HORN!

I FORBID IT, PAUL! YOUR FATHER WAS THE ONLY MAN TO CLIMB THE NORTH FACE! HE DIED TRYING A SECOND TIME SOON AFTER YOU WERE BORN!

FATHER WAS A GREAT CLIMBER, MOTHER! I'M CERTAIN HE'D WANT ME TO CLIMB THE NORTH FACE TOO!

---ESPECIALLY IF HE KNOWS I'D REACH THE TOP ON MY TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY!

SO PAUL AND HIS FRIENDS STARTED THEIR ADVENTURE! ON THE LOWERMOST SLOPES OF THE MOUNTAIN, THEY MET ANOTHER PARTY!

YOU'RE CRAZY TO ATTEMPT THE NORTH FACE, PAUL! WE'RE TAKING THE SAFE WAY!

GOOD LUCK! WE'LL MEET YOU AT THE TOP!

BUT HOURS LATER, HALFWAY ALONG THEIR CLIMB...

ALTITUDE...IS MAKING US... WEAK!

COME ON, HANS! I'LL HELP YOU!

KONGA'S REVENGE

SOMETIME LATER, AS THEY APPROACHED A SHARP LEDGE...

THE WIND IS STIFFER!

CAREFUL! YOU CAN GET BLOWN OFF WITHOUT WARNING!

WOOOOHH

SUDDENLY--!

I'M SLIPPING! HELP!

HE'S GONE!

GET BACK! GET OUT OF HERE--- QUICK!

WHOOOOOO

FIGHTING BACK THEIR SHOCK, THE TWO YOUNG MEN WORKED THEIR WAY UPWARD...

THE SNOW IS TOO POWDERY! WE'LL BE BURIED UNDERNEATH!

WHOO

NOT IF WE WORK ACROSS THAT GLACIER!

HOURS AFTERWARDS HAVING REACHED THE GLACIER...

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT, PAUL! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

NO! WE'LL CLIMB OVER THESE STAKES! LUCKY I BROUGHT THEM ALONG!

EVEN THEN WE HAVE A DAY'S CLIMB TO THE TOP! AND NIGHT IS COMING--FAST!

DON'T GIVE UP, HANS! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

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KONGA'S REVENGE

WITH WIND AND SNOW BUFFET-TING THEM, THE TWO CLIMBERS MADE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE GLACIER SOON...

--A FEW MORE FEET, HANS! HOLD ON TO THE ROPE!

WHOOOO

I---CAN'T! THE ICE IS BREAKING! I'M FALLING!

HANS! HANS!

CRAAAKKK

NOW ONLY PAUL METZEN WAS LEFT! BUT INEXPER-IENCED HANDS AND FEET WERE NO MATCH FOR A TREACHEROUS MOUNTAIN! AND NOW HE TOO FACED DEATH!

IT'LL BE SOON NOW! THE STORM IS GROWING STRONGER!

SUDDENLY--!

GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

AND MOMENTS LATER...

I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE TOP WHEN I SAW YOU!

I CAN'T... BELIEVE IT! IT'S A MIRACLE!

NO MIRACLE! LOOK--! WE'RE NEAR THE TOP!

THE TOP OF THE MATTERHORN!

THEN THE CLIMB..

WE'RE HERE! WE CLIMBED THE NORTH FACE TO BE ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

AND NOT TOO SOON! THOSE CLOUDS MEAN AN AVALANCHE IS ON IT'S WAY!

SWIFTLY, THE TWO MEN HEADED DOWN THE MOUNTAIN JUST AS THE AVALANCHE BROKE FAR ABOVE THEM!

WE'RE WELL BELOW DANGER NOW!

FAREWELL THEN, PAUL! MY PATH IS ANOTHER WAY!

AND HOURS AFTERWARDS, AS PAUL ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE!..

WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD! THE STORM WAS TERRIBLE!

HANS AND ERICH PERISHED! BUT ONE OF THE CLIMBERS FROM THAT OTHER PARTY SAVED ME!

HOW COULD THAT BE? THE OTHER CLIMBERS TURNED BACK TWO DAYS AGO! THE STORM STOPPED THEM MIDWAY!

THEN WHO WAS IT WHO HELPED ME TO THE TOP AND BACK?

ONLY ONE MAN, PAUL! YOUR FATHER!

FOR YOUR TWENTY FIRST BIRTHDAY, HE GAVE YOU YOUR--LIFE!

FAREWELL, MY SON!

END